

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

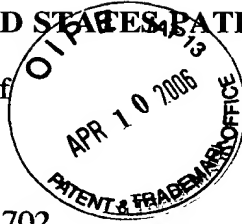
In re Patent Application of

Hajime Takei et al.

Application No.: 09/970,702

Filed: October 5, 2001

For: PRINTING SYSTEM, AND PRINT  
SERVER AND COMPUTER  
PROGRAM USED IN SAID  
PRINTING SYSTEM



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)  
) Group Art Unit: 2624

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) Examiner: Dillon J Murphy

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) Confirmation No.: 1791

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 9, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

The most recent Office Action maintains the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102, on the basis of the Hansen patent, and rejections of claims 3, 6 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103, on the basis of the Hansen patent, in view of various secondary and tertiary references. For the reasons of record, which are discussed further below, it is respectfully submitted that the Hansen patent neither anticipates, nor otherwise suggests, the subject matter of the presently pending claims.

Among other distinctions, Applicants' previous response pointed out that the Hansen patent does not disclose a sorting means of the type recited in the claim, or the separating function performed by such an element. For instance, claim 1 recites a "sorting means for...separating the finishing specifics included in the job ticket received by the receiving